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may seem incomplete, or may be, by some readers, overlooked or too hastily deemed an effort to slay the already slain. But when we consider the persistency of theistic sentiment and its unwholesome effects in obstructing progress and vitiating the very spring and source of moral action, we cannot but welcome this calm, unprejudiced, and admirably lucid demonstration of the untenableness of all the assumptions of theism.

A brief autobiography, which is prefixed to the essay, enhances the interest of the volume. Mr. Call relates with candor and simplicity the history of his own inward development,—how intellect and feeling at conflict became reconciled; how moral impulse, deliberately acted upon, adjusted the outward to the inward condition; how sacrifices entailed by the position were bravely met, the inevitable sorrow gradually assuaged, and mental repose at length attained to and enjoyed through twenty years of peaceful, though not inactive, retirement. The story is one of tender human interest, and bears a lesson which must be patent to all, and which it was never more important to learn than at the present moment; the lesson, namely, that the true happiness and dignity of human life is not to be gained in mental supineness, not by ignoring doubts and concealing conclusions, but rather in the free exercise of all intellectual faculties, in the facing of doubts and difficulties with manly courage, and, above all, in faithful devotion to the cause of Humanity.

JANE HUME CLAPPERTON.

PROBLEMS OF POVERTY. By John A. Hobson, M.A. London: Methuen. 1891.

A well-known publisher is said to have declared some ten years ago that the public who might be expected to buy or read any new book on economics consisted of fifty persons at most. A month or two after that remark was made the astonishing sale of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" showed that hundreds of thousands of readers could be found for a writer who approached economic science with the hope of finding in it some cure for the social evils of his generation.

Among the many treatises on the same range of subject, which have been published since that time, Mr. J. A. Hobson's "Problems of Poverty" (Methuen's University Extension series, 1891) deserves to take a high place. Mr. Hobson originally collected his materials for a series of popular "extension lectures," and the book has the virtues, if also some of the limitations, which might be expected from its origin. Almost every question that has been raised of late years as to the relations of capital and labor, or of the less fortunate members of the community to their more fortunate neighbors or to the state, is clearly stated, and the solutions proposed by the best authorities of the day are given as far as possible in the words of the original propounders. The bold note of economic heresy which Mr. Hobson struck in his and Mr. Mummery's book on Industrial Physiology is here absent, but Mr. Hobson generally indicates his own opinions on all but a few of the most burning questions. With every opinion of any writer on so many points no reviewer is likely to agree, and therefore it will be sufficient, e.g., simply to state that the arguments used by Mr. Hobson in discussing an Alien Bill, and again in estimating the probable effects of an Eight Hours' Day, seem to involve the actual as well as the hypothetical soundness of commercial protection, and that his sweeping condemnation of the "wage-earning proclivities of married women" (p. 66) would not find favor with those women who are most anxious for some measure of economic independence.

Mr. Hobson uses his sources with a certain catholicity which is at times dangerous. Mr. Arnold White's statements about the East End are quoted as if they were of equal weight with those of Mr. Charles Booth or Mr. Llewellyn Smith, and (on p. 100) Mr. Hobson says that "it has been calculated that one-tenth of the business of England is in the hands of joint-stock companies," while (on p. 204) he says that "it has been calculated" by another unnamed authority that one-third is in that condition, without indicating which calculation he prefers. Both here and in many other places the value of the book for serious students would be enormously increased by much fuller references.

But as a popular summary of current opinion and controversy Mr. Hobson's treatise is comprehensive, pleasantly written, and eminently provocative of thought.

Graham Wallas.

NOTE.—Several reviews of German books, by Professor G. von Gizycki, received too late for insertion in this number, will appear in the next. There will also be "A Report on Recent Literature in Theoretical Ethics and Related Topics in America," by Professor Josiah Royce.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- CONTEMPORARY SOCIALISM. By John Rae. Second Edition. London: Sonnenschein, 1891.
- AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY. By John S. Mackenzie, M.A. Glasgow: MacLehose, 1890.
- ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION OF HISTORY. By Prof. Thorold Rogers. Second Edition. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1891.
- THE QUINTESSENCE OF IBSENISM. By Bernard Shaw. London: Walter Scott, 1891.
- THE USE AND ABUSE OF MONEY. By Prof. Cunningham. London: John Murray, 1891.
- THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE BEAUTIFUL. By Professor W. Knight. London: John Murray, 1891.
- FACTORY ACT LEGISLATION. By Victorine Jeans. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1891.
- THE MODERN STATE. By Leroy-Beaulieu. Translated from the French. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1891.
- ETHICA; OR, ETHICS OF REASON. By Scotus Novanticus. Second Edition. London: Williams & Norgate, 1891.
- THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT PRECEDING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. By Félix Rocquain. Condensed and Translated by J. D. Hunting. With an Introductory Note by Professor Huxley. London: Sonnenschein & Co., 1891.
- THE STUDENT'S MARX. By Edward Aveling, D.Sc. London: Sonnenschein & Co., 1891.